GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1872
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Conservation of Endangered Species
Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of birds and animals under endangered category is decreasing rapidly and if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
(b) whether the Government has taken any initiative to conduct a census of endangered species of birds and animals, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to monitor and protect the endangered species of birds and animals, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) As per the information available including by way of census, there are no reports indicating decrease in number of birds and animals under endangered category in the country. On the other hand, the population of several species like lion, tiger, elephant and rhinoceros is on the rise.

(b) Census of major flagship species is undertaken at the State-level by the respective State/Union Territory Governments periodically. However census of tiger and elephant is undertaken at the national level once every four and five years respectively. State-wise estimated population of tigers, elephants, rhino and lions, as per the latest census available with the Ministry, is given in the Annexure IA, IB and IC.

(c) Initiatives taken to monitor and protect the endangered species of birds and animals include:

i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

iii. Special programmes like 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' have been launched for conservation of these endangered species and their habitats.

iv. A specific component of "Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on selected critically endangered species.

v. In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

vi. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species and improvement of its habitat.

vii. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

viii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

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